globalization policy being followed for faster development of the Indian economy has built-in safeguards as well as social safety nets which would ensure that sudden changes do not destablise the social and economic fabric of the country. While pursuing a cautious globalization policy, the Government is also continuously trying to secure and strengthen the social safety nets by enhancing food security, literacy, education and health profile of the population.

Non-lapsable fund for North-Eastern States

1379. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of the non-lapsable fund for the North-Eastern States during the current year as projected in the budget, State-wise;

(b) which authority will use this fund for development work and how this would be used; and

(c) whether this fund is allotted to certain projects which are there in P.M's package of the last year, if so, their names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources has recently been constituted for assisting development projects, including in the infrastructure sector, in the North East and Sikkim. The funds being credited by various Union Ministries/Departments to the Pool are expected to enable meeting the initial requirements for this purpose during the current financial year.

Project proposals relating, inter alia, to PM's package, are envisaged to be identified, from time to time, for consideration of assistance from the Central Pool for implementation through appropriate Central/State agencies.

Estimates of persons living below poverty line

1380. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest estimates of persons living below the poverty line as on 1993-94 and 1997-98 as per the Planning Commission and also as per ISI; and

(b) whether the figures are same; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level using the quinquennial National Sample Survey (NSS) data on consumer expenditure. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 1993-94 based on the NSS consumer expenditure survey of 50th Round. According to this, 320.37 million people constituting 35.97% of the total population live below the poverty line in 1993-94. The Department of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Government of India has published a study on poverty in February, 1998, entitled "Counting the Poor". This has been prepared by Amaresh Dubey of the North Eastern Hill University, Shillong and Shubhashis Gangopadhyay of the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi Centre and SERFA. The study, using alternative poverty lines has estimated the incidence of poverty. According to this, the incidence of poverty in the three methods in 1993-94 are estimated as 28.75%, 33.47% and 40.26% respectively. The study has not given any estimate of poverty for the